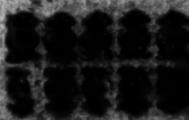


THE
Womenscomplaint
AGAINST
TOBACCO
Or, An excellent help to
Multiplication.

Pespicuously shewing the annoyance that it brings to Mankind, and
the great deprivation of Comfort and delight to the Female Sex,
with a special and significant order set forth by the Women, for
suppressing the general use thereof amongst their Members, they
finding that Tobacco is the only Enemy to Pleasure and Procre-
tion as they now plainly make it appear in this their Declaration.



Womencombined
TAKING
TO ACCO.
MATERIAL

2000
2000

The Womens Complaint against Tobacco.

A T a Session of Women lately holden at Gossips Hall; amongst the rest of their grievances which were then debated of, this great question arose, concerning the use of Tobacco: whether it was necessary that their Husbands should take Tobacco or no? a two minutes silence was made, (which was a great wonder) one more grave then the rest, begins to declare her self an utter Enemy to Tobacco, in this manner.

Neighbours and Friends quoth she, I have been married to my Husband about fourteen years, this Man hath been all his time a great Smoaker, and to tell you the truth I was never got with child by him but once, and that was so feebly done, that I may boldly say it was not half gotten, though he is a Man as likely as any of his Neighbours, and as for my own part I am sure I am not in the least defective, but am as apt and fit for the work of generation as any of my Neighbours, nay I may say as likely to be got with child as any Woman in *England*, let the other be what she will, yet this Man cannot do thefeat, and the reason why it is not done, I must clearly impute to his smoaking that infernal *Indian Weed*, which they call Tobacco, as for example. My next Neighbour Mrs. Twiss, her Husband and she have been married but nine years, and she has brought him nine brave lusty Children, well gotten Children, and the reason is, because her Husband never takes Tobacco, this I think may be a strong evidence that this filthy *Weed* is altogether destructive to procreation and robs a Woman of that sweet natural delight, which she ought to receive from her Husband or from some body else: Thus much I can testify of my self, which I desire you would take into consideration, and prceed to further Judgement according to your best knowledge.

This witty Oration so tickled the fancy and imagination of the rest of this Female Assembly, that they could scarce forbear speaking all at once, but silence was again commanded, but could not be obtained for a good while, at length a handsome, comely, buxome Woman stands up, and desires to be heard, and passes her sentence thus. Tobacco! O cursed Tobacco, I wish that Man had been hang'd that first brought thee over into *England*, for I have a pretty young Man to my Husband, as you all know Neighbours, and by his countenance appears to be a good Womans Man, but I am sure in I that had the contrary, I am sure I have heard my Grandmothers

ther say, (but indeed she was old) that one Man was enough for one Woman) but (O this damn'd Tobacco) I am sure I find it nothing so, for I could dispence with two or three such Men as my Husband is. Alas, what is once in three Weeks? or once a Month for a young brisk Woman who could willingly enjoy a Man every night, to be sure, if not a little in the day time? Well, if it thus be the effect of Tobacco, I am ready to my Husband shall leave it off, or he leave him off, and take my self to some other Man, that shall take no Tobacco, but shall refresh himself and me, sometimes at the Tavern with good brisk Wine, and a good Dinner or Supper, and sometimes carry me to see a Play, and sometimes cross the water to Spring-Gardens, and there eat and drink well; and when the Night comes, he shall wait on me home to my Chamber, and there kindly to supply the wants of a longing Woman, as it may be my self; all this I will have instead of Tobacco, or else his want of my will; who can endure to have a smoaky Chimney always by her all night, nay more then all this, the stinking Brute must kiss you, thinking to satiate you with that; for alas he can do nothing else: For there is no Oyl left in the Lamp, that is all wasted and consumed by smoking, and fuming that stinking unnatural destructive Devil, Tobacco: O how I am transported with hatred and aversion towards this Weed, when I call to mind how destructive it is to the precious Nature of Man, which was made for the supply of us Women; and not to be found up by Tobacco, whose *Original* sprung from Hell, for the Devil (who thinks he never enquires men fast enough) invented this stinking dry Wood, that Men taking of it their mouths will stink, and their throats be so parched & scorched with the smoke thereof, that they must drink excessively to quench the inflammation thereof, till at length they become drunk, then are they fit for all manner of debauchery, which is the ready road to destruction. How say you Neighbours have not I spoke divinely, I am confident that there is ne're a Woman here, but will willingly set her seal to the truth of these Objections, which I have here experimentally declared before this Worthy Assembly. And if it comes to my turn to speak again I can yet say more on this subject, which may be as much significant to the good and benefit of our Sex as what I have already spoken.

She having thus spoken they signified their attention by a general applause of what she had declared; but still striving who should be next, there was a great and terrible combustion amongst themselves: till at length a Doctor's Wife claimed the preeminence; saying, that she (from the experience she had learned from her Husband's books) could discover and tell, in-

in the body of Man By the poysounous fume of this Tobacco : and how obnoxious it is to the Seminal and luxuriant parts of those Men, that take delight in sucking in the smoke of that dull Leaf, doing know-

The rest hearing her begin thus learnedly were resolved to be silent a while, and bridle their tongues, expecting that she would unfold some secret evil that lay lurking in this broad Leaf of Tobacco : So she began her discourse after this skilful method.

Neighbours (quoth she) it has been my fortune to have been twice married : Yet I must also let you know, that I am still but young in years, not surpassing the age of thirty : I was married to my first Husband but three years, and then he dyed; and in that time I had no child by him; nor half that satisfaction from him, which a young Woman (as I was) might expect: but I knew no better then, though I have had a large and comfortable experience since I buried him, and married the Doctor, who is now my Husband by whom I have had six Children, and all the delights which are due to the Marriage bed. I once took an occasion to ask him what he thought, might be the reason that I had no Children by my former Husband, who in his life time appeared to be a likelyer Man than himself: he made me this Answer, that he took good will in Tobacco. For (saith he) Tobacco is of a soft, hot and dry, and acrystalline Radical Moisture; Now I hope you know what is meant by the Radical Moisture; for it is the seed in Man which propagates and begets Children in women; Now that being wanting, those Men are altogether unfit for procreation; and this vacancy of Nature is occasioned by Mens smoking that base destructive Weed, called Tobacco: Nay a further accoont I can yet give you of its operations, for reading lately in one of my Husbands books I found it thus written, first in Latine;

Defensio generis humani; Nicotiana; Scemini radicale summis, Periculum venenum infundit; Sed vita humani per se nullum. This he did not understand, but reading on I found it thus Englished; That this Tobacco is an accouint of Humans Race, for it dryes up the Radical Moisture, and shewes such mortall vapours into the Brain, that it finds many an timely way into Graves.

This being heard they began to be weary of silence every one striving who should give this Doctor the greatest applause; but she desired them to forbear, for she had not finisht her discourse; so then they again seated themselves as before: Now says she, which of you all will suffer your Husband, or Bedfellow, to take this cursed Tobacco that fills their heads full of mortall vapours, & ambition, intemperian, ambition, and such like base words, which leads them to their graves in the prime of their age: Nay moreover it robs & deprives us women of that consolation & delight which every young woman ought to enjoy in a full measure.

• I say it steals away all those happinesses from us, even whilst our Husbands are alive with us, and as oft smokes them over the perch as they call it, by consumption Coughs, and such like languishing distemper.

• At that they all unanimously cryed out away with this cursed Tobacco, this venomous Indian Weed, we do clearly vole it down to be a common and publick Enemy to Men, in robbing of them of their health and strength but a private and secret Enemy to Women in robbing them of their pleasure and Delight. Sincere again was adm'd by the grand Matron of the Assembly, who to tell you the truth was well striken in yeats, and yes she would very faine have had her vole amongst the rest, but she was very gently and mildly prohibited by the younger sort, they very fairly alledging that there was enough of them to manage this cause, whose warmer blood runs briskly through their veins, and truly in dosing together belong to us, for Tobacco could in no wise be injurious to them, whom Time already had deprived of the enjoyments of mankind; but the harm it did was to those who were capable of receiving the benefits of Nature, but were made destitute thereof by reason of their sort of Husbands, who make Chimneys of their throats and change their Teeth from their natural colour to be as black as the Chimney flock; "as we lay, that have just cause to make our timely and most just complaint against this unseeling unnatural flinking Weed, least in a few years we find a dissolution of mankind, and then I am sure the World will soon be at an end, for we Women be we never so active, cannot pleasure one another in that great work of generation, neither can we multiply; Poor Souls we shall be starved unless a speedy course be taken for the extirpation and rooting up of this great and destructive enemy to our mournable Sex."

The old Gentlewoman hearing their great reasons, did willingly give place to the younger Dames, confessing the truth, that her dancing days were done, and she cared no more for Man, then Man cared for her, but yet Devils would live, I have a fellow friend to your lad and I am gounding conditions. "Well well my pretty Blegues I will on for your priviledges, I was young once and could as ill dispence with a defective Man, as the briskest Dame in Town, though I say it my self, and truly my pretty Lambs, I must advise you to make the best use of your time, and take away those things, and qualities, which in any will doth but hinder your delight and pleasure here in this World. For verily, oldage will quickly come. Come to my knowledge harm Wings, and flies away with a swift pace, O methinks it is but yesterday since I embrac'd a pretty young Man a friend of mine, when last it is now above twenty years since, yet I cannot forget the sweet de-

ight and pleasure I then receiv'd : In my Conscience Girls, if I should talk of it a little longer, old ba'dl pated Timt woudretreat, and I should become young again, but O alas the Chollick now doth gripe me, the Cramp doth draw my Limbs together somt. Diseases encompass me round about, and I must give way to younger men to manage this great work of Women-kind, and when the Bill is pass'd the voting down of this filthy Tobacco, if I cannot put my hand to it, to shew my willingness and my well-wishings to our Sex, I will put one finger to it, and thus I will take my leave of you, finding my self something faint, in speaking what I have laid already, Ah this old Age, I say it cannot be hid, be sure you vigorously proceed against this cursed Tobacco, that is your open enemy, and so farewell.

With that they all gave her many and hasty thanks, for her good counsel and advice, either of them being more sensible of the great miseries it did their Husbands (and so consequently themselves) then she was, by reason old Age had not yet overtaken them.

Now again, it was to be considered who should speak next, all of them still having something to say and declare, though much to the same effect which had been said already; till a length animable tongued Mrs. desired that her verdict might be heard, not doubting (as she told them) that what she had to offer and propose, might be as significant and effectual to the business in hand; as any thing that had been said and declared by any of them: for truly she had the fence of fellow feeling upon her as much as the best of them, though as yet not actually known the pleasure of Man: for (I farrfie) I am now upwards of seventeen, and by your selves you may know that a Woman in my condition has a longing desire to be further satisfied concerning the enjoyment of mankind.

They hearing her so violently urge upon this point, gave order that she should be heard with great attention and diligence, not knowing but her aggrievances might equally compare with their own, so they commanded her to speak as boldly as her Sex and tender years would admit and allow of: so she declared her self briefly after this manner. Neighbours (quoth she) I understand that the drift of our present business is to defam and make void this Weed Tobacco, and to prohibit and forbid all mankind in general as well Batchelors as married Men, from taking or smoking any more of it, from this time forward, and for evermore.

Now the reasons that I shall infer upon my own account (for I suppose you will expect that I should nominate some principal grounds) shall be these. I being as yet a Virgin (thought it may be contrary to my own will

Man that Thomas takes Tobaccoe, and as I have said before, hee is to be
those enjoyments and delightes, and every Woman that is married
For you do all agree with me, that Tobaccoe is the greatest inducement
whereas of the natural plasitnes. The apprehension and fear of the To-
baccoe, or smoking it now, may be the utter ruin and desolation, not only of
my selfe, but of many thousand Damels more, for it may use them never
to marry, and having no comfort and consolacion from a manke, so that
they will be forced to live and dye Maides as they call it, then shall we be
forced to our great Grandmothers have left upon record, to lead Apes in
Prayson, and such a torment which torment I think is sufficient to dissuade
any man to take Tobaccoe, especially having underneath their hearts towards
us, and to pervert the Youth Government of this honourable Assembly to
such somthing so strong, that all Men may be afraid hence forward to
infect any woman with taking weed: and that I leave to your wiser
heads to govern and rule over you ladies beyn (as you have declared) suffi-
ciently to make youe all afraid of taking this burning and suffocating weed
and because they have a generall consent to what the
Indians doe in this respect, and now they proceede to make an order
to prohibit the prohition of their Husbands taking Tobaccoe, and thus they

... **FINIS** ...